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Fantastic Four®



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DIRECT EDITION

A team--and a family--of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary--and extraordinary!

Fantastic Four

EPILOGUE CHAPTER TWO

"THE MIDDLE OF THE END"



The Baxter Building has received a trio of unexpected visitors in the form of the Sub-Mariner, the Black Panther and Doctor Doom...from seventy-five years in the future. Doom informs Reed that they have arrived to stop him from implementing idea #101 in his list of ideas to make the world a better place. In Doom's future, Reed is no longer a hero. Idea #101--fix everything--results only in destruction. And perhaps Doom is proven right about Reed's villainous side as Reed takes a gun and proceeds to blow Namor's head off...

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NO MORE SHOOTING!



YOU KILLED MY FRIEND. TELL ME WHY.



SUE SHIELD.



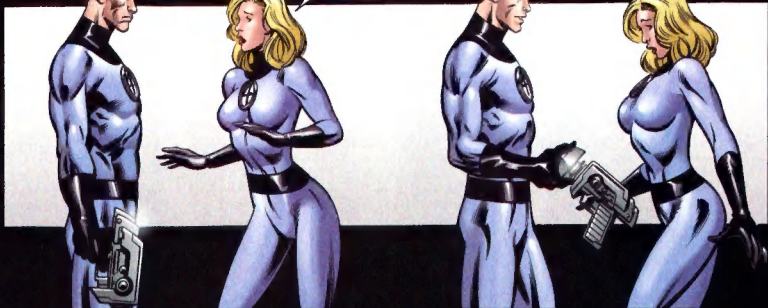
VREEEEEE
PAF

NO!

THANK YOU.

REED, YOU
HAVE TO PUT THE
GUN DOWN. CAN
YOU HEAR ME?
PUT THE GUN
DOWN.

CERTAINLY, I
DON'T NEED IT
ANY LONGER.



STRETCH,
WHAT'D YOU
DO?

HE KILLED
YOUR
FRIENDS.

IT'S OBVIOUS I DIDN'T
COME BACK IN TIME FAR
ENOUGH. REGRETTABLY,
THE MADNESS THAT WILL
DESTROY THE FUTURE
HAS ALREADY TAKEN
HOLD.

I GOTTA
HAND IT TO YA,
DOOMSDAY, YOU
CAN SLING IT
LIKE NOBODY'S
BUSINESS.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?





BUT THEN I SAW
DOOM USE A KINETIC
ENERGY INVERSION
FIELD.

THE PROBLEM
I'VE ALWAYS HAD WITH
THE TECHNOLOGY IS
THAT IT REQUIRES
TWO EXTERNAL
PROJECTORS.

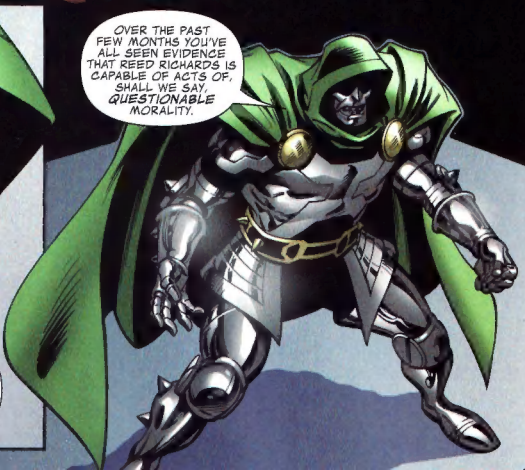
PROJECTORS THAT
VICTOR HID, RATHER
CLEVERLY, INSIDE HIS
ANDROID DUPLICATES
OF NAMOR AND
T'CHALLA.

SO WHAT ARE YOU
TRYIN' TA PULL HERE,
RUSTBUCKET? HOPIN'
WE WOULDN'T NOTICE
THAT THE CORPSES
ARE MADE OF
TINKERTOYS?

FRANKLY, I
DIDN'T EXPECT
RICHARDS TO
SEE THROUGH
MY RUSE.

BUT MY MINOR
DECEPTION DOESN'T
ALTER THE VERACITY OF
MY CLAIM, OR THE DIRE
THREAT TO THE FUTURE
THAT REED RICHARDS
REPRESENTS.

IDEA #101
MUST NOT BE
IMPLEMENTED.



CONSIDER HIS
UTTER DISREGARD
FOR THE "CIVIL
RIGHTS" AMERICANS
INTERMITTENTLY
PRETEND TO
CHERISH.

HE CREATED A
GULAG IN THE NEGATIVE
ZONE TO IMPRISON SUPER-
POWERED DISSIDENTS,
MANY OF WHOM WERE
PREVIOUSLY HIS FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES.

HE POSSESSES
A PERSONAL
ARROGANCE THAT
PLACES HIM BEYOND
BOTH MAN'S AND
GOD'S LAW.

CLONING IS STILL
ILLEGAL IN THIS
SCIENTIFICALLY-
BACKWARD COUNTRY,
IS IT NOT?

IN ANY EVENT, HIS OBSCENE
CREATION, A CLONE OF A BEING
BELIEVED BY MANY TO BE THE
SON OF THE ALL-FATHER, KILLED
DR. BILL FOSTER.



YOU KNOW I SPEAK THE TRUTH, RICHARDS. IF YOU DIDN'T KILL YOUR FRIEND, IT'S BUT A TECHNICALITY. YOU MOST CERTAINLY PROVIDED THE MURDER WEAPON.

BEHAVIOR NOTIFICATION

BUT WE'VE BELABORED HIS GRANDER PERSONAL FAILINGS AD NAUSEAM.

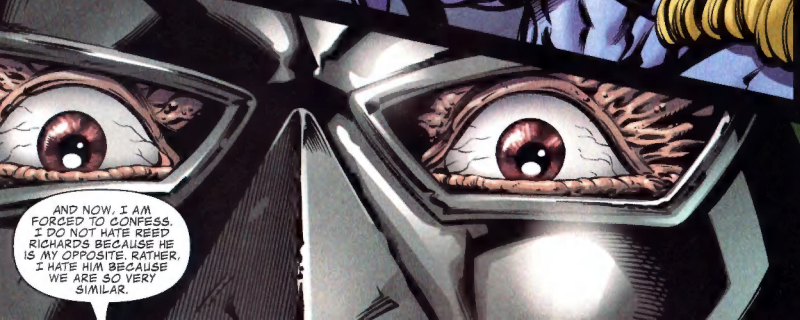
HIS GREATEST FAILURES ARE, AS ALWAYS, MORE PERSONAL.



HE LIED TO YOU. HIS WIFE, HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. HIS CLOSEST FRIEND.



AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER, HE DID NOT DEIGN TO TAKE YOU INTO HIS CONFIDENCE. INSTEAD, HE DECEIVED YOU, AND ALL "FOR YOUR OWN GOOD."



AND NOW, I AM FORCED TO CONFESS. I DO NOT HATE REED RICHARDS BECAUSE HE IS MY OPPOSITE. RATHER, I HATE HIM BECAUSE WE ARE SO VERY SIMILAR.



**MISTER,
YOU JUST
CROSSED
THE LINE!**



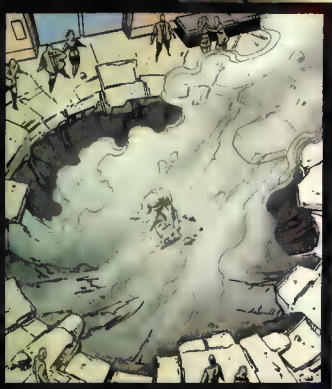
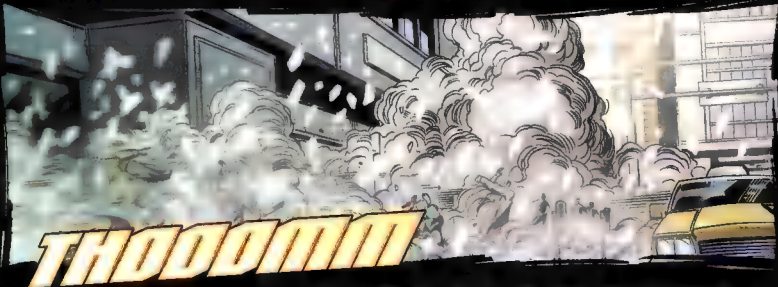
YA KNOW, I
WUZ'N'T DONE
EXPLAININ'
THINGS TO
YA YET.

GERONIMO!!

THAT'S WHAT
YA YELL WHEN
YER GOIN'
DOWN!

THUD





A close-up shot of Doomsday, a large, orange, scaly creature with a menacing expression, looking down at Superman. Superman is wearing his iconic blue suit with a green cape and a yellow 'S' on his chest. He is looking up at Doomsday with a determined but weary expression.

HE CARES ABOUT THE TRUTH. HOW THINGS GOT HERE, HOW THINGS WORK, HOW THEY COULD WORK BETTER.

HE WANTS TO KNOW. HE WANTS TO KNOW EVERYTHING.

A wide shot showing Doomsday lunging towards Superman. Superman is on the ground, looking up at the incoming attack. The background is a city street with debris and smoke.

THERE'S ONLY TWO THINGS IN THE WHOLE BLAMED UNIVERSE MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN THAT.

A close-up of Doomsday's face, showing his orange scales and a single eye. He is looking down at Superman, who is lying on the ground. The scene is filled with dust and debris.

ANYTIME ANYBODY'S GETTIN' A RAW DEAL? REED'S RIGHT THERE, FIGHTIN' FOR THEM LIKE THEY WUZ HIS OWN BLOOD.

A close-up of Superman lying on the ground, looking up at Doomsday. He is wearing his blue suit and green cape. The ground is covered in debris and blood.

AND IF YOU ARE HIS BLOOD? THERE AIN'T EVEN A WORD FOR THE KINDA LOVE AND LOYALTY YOU GET FROM HIM.

A close-up of Doomsday's face, showing his orange scales and a single eye. He is looking down at Superman, who is lying on the ground. The scene is filled with dust and debris.

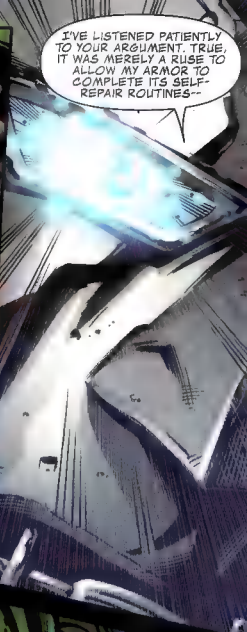
AND GET IT STRAIGHT, DOOM. REED RICHARDS AND MEZ WE'RE CLOSER THAN BLOOD. I COULDN'T LOVE THAT MAN MORE IF WE WERE RELATED.



SO YOU'LL
PARDON ME IF I
GET A LITTLE
PEEVED WHEN SOME
TIN-PLATED DICTATOR
TRIES TA TELL ME
WHAT A BAD GUY
REED IS.



I'D
FORGOTTEN THE
FEROCITY YOU
POSSESSED IN
YOUR YOUTH.



I'VE LISTENED PATIENTLY
TO YOUR ARGUMENT. TRUE,
IT WAS MERELY A RUSE TO
ALLOW MY ARMOR TO
COMPLETE ITS SELF-
REPAIR ROUTINES--



RRRRRAANG!

REED
RICHARDS
IS NOT YOUR
FRIEND.

NEVERTHELESS,
I WOULD APPRECIATE
IF YOU SHOWED ME
THE SAME
COURTESY.



ZZZRAK

UNNN!



NEITHER AM I, NOR DO I PRETEND TO BE.

NNNNN...

BUT TODAY, I TELL YOU A TRUTH THAT HE NEVER WOULD.

WHILE HE CLAIMS TO BE A HUMANITARIAN, ACTING FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE, REED RICHARDS CARES ONLY FOR HIS OWN GLORY.



EH?
PROJECTING MUCH?



IT'S ALL OVER, VICTOR. WHATEVER YOU HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH TODAY, WE KNOW YOU'RE LYING.



YOU KNOW NOTHING!

TANK

EASY, OLD
FRIEND, I'VE
GOT YOU.

FLAME
ON!

I'VE NEVER
UNDERSTOOD
WHY REED PUTS
UP WITH YOUR
GARBAGE AND
AT THE MOMENT,
I DON'T CARE.

YOU
ARE GOING
DOWN.

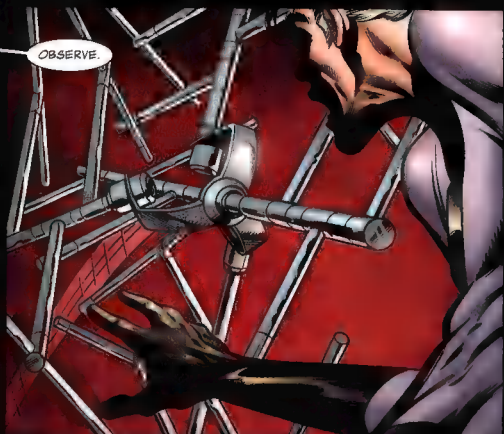


HARDLY.

YEAH, GOOD
COMEBACK SO,
DO I TURN UP THE
HEAT, OR ARE YOU
ALREADY DONE?

I WANT YOU
ALL TO REMEMBER,
IN YOUR FINAL, FLEETING
MOMENTS OF LIFE, THAT
I TRIED TO DO THIS
ANOTHER WAY.







AHHHHH!

DID YOU TRULY THINK YOU COULD DEFEAT ME? I'VE HAD DECADES TO PREPARE FOR THIS.

VICTOR, PLEASE...

"PLEASE"? ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR MERCY?

NO MERCY.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

IDEA #101. MY PLAN DOES IT REALLY HARM HUMANITY?



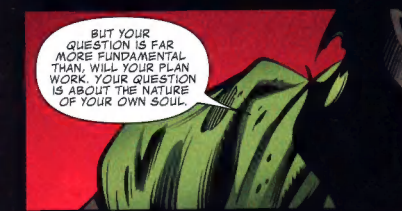
THAT'S NOT
WHAT YOU *TRULY*
WISH TO KNOW,
IS IT?



OH, I AM CERTAIN THAT
ON A SUPERFICIAL LEVEL
YOU HAVE SOME SMALL
CONCERN FOR THE FATE
OF HUMANITY.



AND, OF COURSE,
YOU WILL RECTIFY
THE OCCASIONAL
INJUSTICE, IF IT
SUITS YOU.



BUT YOUR
QUESTION IS FAR
MORE FUNDAMENTAL
THAN, WILL YOUR PLAN
WORK. YOUR QUESTION
IS ABOUT THE NATURE
OF YOUR OWN SOUL.



YOU WISH TO KNOW
THE TRUTH ABOUT
YOURSELF.

"AM I
EVIL?"



HEY, DOOMSDAY!
YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE HOW
LONG IT TOOK US
TO FIND YOU--

DAMNATION.



--BUT THEN,
THAT'S ONE OF THE
NICE THINGS ABOUT
TIME TRAVEL!

TO BE CONCLUDED!



DROBOROS

Team DCP

**LIKE IT?
BUY IT!**



GREEN GIANT